



Open Space Committee

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2019.

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: 1st floor meeting room, Town Hall Annex.

Minutes

Attendance: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Brian Kelder, Ann LeRoyer, John Pickle, Wendy Richter, Emily Sullivan, and David White.

Members Absent: Shirley Canniff and Teresa DeBenedictis.

1. Minutes
 - a. The minutes from September 26, 2019 were reviewed. Motion to accept was made by David White. Second by Elisabeth Carr-Jones. Minutes were accepted.
2. Administration and communication items
 - a. Emily Sullivan posted call for new members on the Town website.
3. Take a Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces.
 - a. The QR code currently directs to the old Open Space Committee web page. Emily Sullivan will work on getting a new code that will go to the new page where a list of the available walking maps will be housed or work with Adam Kurowski to create a redirect to the webpage hosting the maps.
 - b. Ann LeRoyer sent updated text for the website and Emily Sullivan has updated the site.
 - c. By the November meeting, we hope to submit announcements about the resource to the community.
4. Elisabeth Carr-Jones has been getting input and approved changes to the Robbins Farm Park section of Experiencing Arlington's Open Spaces story map app (<https://arlingtonma.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=72a9ae0e47494ca8a38db869fc5b6d78>). Brian Kelder will continue working with Adam Kurowski to work out access to the website to make changes to the site.
5. Picture post. Elisabeth Carr-Jones mocked up improved signage for the Picture Posts. The group voted that the white lettering extending down the post was most inviting, informative, and visible.
6. Wendy Richter will look at the number of visits to the Open Space group on Facebook to decide if we should maintain the group.

7. Open Space Plan. Ann LeRoyer submitted a preliminary application to the Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants. If successful, we will be invited to submit a final application. If funding is approved, funding won't be available until July 2020. The previous Open Space Plan was funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), but the CPA wasn't formed yet.
8. Emily Sullivan and Kelly Lynema are working together to create a town-wide survey that will be included with this year's census to gather information on people's thoughts and interests on Arlington's parks and open spaces. The committee reviewed the current draft survey. Elisabeth Carr-Jones has compiled former surveys collected by Envision Arlington and she will share electronic copies with the group to consider for adding to the current survey.
9. Other Updates
 - a. CPA applications for FY2021 are expected to include the OSC plan, a feasibility study to move the VA memorial on the Broadway Plaza to Cooke's Hollow, Reservoir Master Plan projects, and the final phase for Wellington Park.
 - b. The state Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) has ruled against the town in the long-running effort to develop the Mugar property in East Arlington. The Zoning Board of Appeals' (ZBA) case to assert "safe-harbor" status to block development of townhouses on wetlands by Arlington Land Realty has failed, and the developer's attempt to build Thorndike Place near Route 2 was to resume Tuesday, Oct. 29, before the ZBA, but that appeal has been postponed by the applicant, with no reason provided.
 - c. Spy Pond Park renovations are almost done.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Submitted by John Pickle